



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



Program Focus —

The goal of WHIP in Minnesota is to "Maintain a healthy, diverse ecosystem through the improvement, enhancement and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, in cooperation with private agricultural landowners".

Promote wildlife habitat restoration and management on private lands through cooperative endeavors between landowners and Federal, state and local conservation partners.

To maximize habitat and species benefits, focus WHIP financial and technical resources towards projects statewide which are a component of a comprehensive plan with the highest demonstratable outcomes.

Utilize WHIP, to the extent practicable, to benefit State and Federal at risk species.

Minnesota Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on tribal and private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Although appropriated funding for WHIP has been obligated, a nominal amount of supplemental funding for FY-01 was made available through Section 211(b) of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000. Minnesota received a financial assistance allocation of \$303,800. This amount, coupled with additional prior year de-obligations, provided approximately \$350,000 of overall FY-01 available funding.

2001 Accomplishments

Eligible applications received = 84

Dollar value of applications received = \$734,710

Total acres under contract = 1566 acres

Dollar value of WHIP cost share = \$337,006

Dollar value of participants = \$198,452

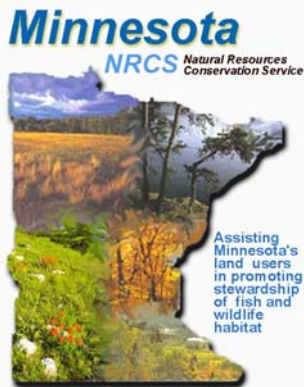
Dollar value of partner contribution (county, state, Federal and non-governmental organizations) = \$22,679

Predominant Practices:

- Timber Stand Improvement, 534 ac.
- Native Grass Plantings and Management, 505 ac.
- Native tree/shrub Plantings, 375 ac.
- Wetland Restoration, 52 acres
- Forest Riparian Buffers, 8 acres
- Stream bank and Shoreline Protection, 200'

A variety of projects were funded including:

- Development of shoreline protection and walleye spawning habitat on Lake Winnebigoishish.
- Native prairie and oak savanna restoration to benefit outdoor environmental education at Carpenter Nature Center, Washington Co.
- Restoration and improvement of native white pine communities along Lake Vermillion.
- Wetland and native community restoration on the Clearwater SWCD Conservation Demonstration Farm.
- Incorporation of native plant materials into urban subdivision planning as an alternative to wildlife un-friendly exotic and invasive plants.



Program Benefits

NORTHERN TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

This ecoregion once dominated by tallgrass prairie, is concentrated in western Minnesota, but continues into adjacent North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. The Tallgrass Prairie region is recognized as a high national priority by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, relative to migratory waterfowl, and by the Great Plains Biodiversity Committee relative to rare grassland flora, fauna, and natural communities. This region offers the best potential for cooperating with agriculture to improve habitat for declining grassland species.

DRIFTLESS/DISSECTED PLATEAU

This region is a highly eroded, highly dissected river valleys, loess capped a landscape with some till deposits. This region continues south into Iowa. Priority landscapes representing concentrations of native habitat, rare species, and non-game species include the Mississippi Riverway, Whitewater Watershed, and Root River Watershed. Restoration and management of wildlife habitat and trout streams are a high priority.

EASTERN BROADLEAF FOREST

This region bridges the transition zone between prairie to the west and true forest to the east. Priority landscapes represent concentrations of native habitats, rare and non-game species. Priority activities include preservation and restoration of prairie habitat, and herbaceous wetlands.

LAKE AGASSIZ-ASPEN PARKLAND

This region gets its name from the mosaic of aspen groves, prairie, and wetlands located between the extensive glacial Lake Agassiz peatlands to the east and the agricultural lands to the west. The Aspen Parkland priority landscape represents a concentration of native habitats, rare and non-game species. Prescribed burning, wetland restoration and brush management is practiced to benefit species diversity, and upland bird habitat.

LAURENTIAN MIXED FOREST

This region comprises the true forested region of Minnesota. This region has been identified as priority landscapes representing concentrations of native habitats, rare species, and non-game wildlife. Activities include planting of native forestland, wetland restoration, and accelerated timber management of old growth and large blocks of mature forest. Prescribed fire and brush management of Greater prairie chicken and sharp-tail grouse habitat.

State contact

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Minnesota Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Minnesota Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (98-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$145,849	21	\$514,932	106
District 2	\$16,708	6	\$137,022	30
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	\$42,738	6	\$74,683	23
District 7	\$68,495	17	\$265,098	59
District 8	\$63,216	14	\$450,585	88
State Totals	\$337,006	64	\$1,442,320	306

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